

**Appellate Division  
Supreme Court of the State of New York**

FIRST JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT  
27 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10010

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
CAPITOL STATION, PO BOX 7288  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12224

SECOND JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT  
45 MONROE PLACE  
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11201

FOURTH JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT  
50 EAST AVENUE  
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14604

STATEMENT FROM THE PRESIDING JUSTICES  
BAR ADMISSION PRACTICES  
APRIL 27, 2020

On April 21, 2020, the Court of Appeals instituted a number of measures in response to the challenges posed to legal education and the bar admissions process by the unprecedented public health crisis now impacting our State and Nation. Several of the Court's actions require implementation by the Appellate Division which is charged with the responsibility for the determination of individual admission applications.

The following changes apply in all Departments of the Appellate Division:

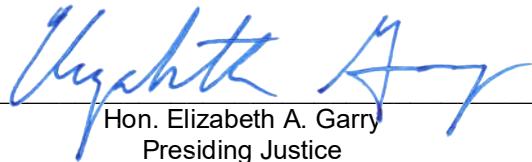
1. In accordance with the April 21, 2020 directive of the Court of Appeals, applicants for bar admission who graduate from law school in Spring 2020 shall not be required to provide an affidavit attesting to compliance with the Pro Bono requirement (22 NYCRR §520.16).
2. In accordance with the April 21, 2020 directive of the Court of Appeals, applicants for bar admission who graduate from law school in Spring 2020 shall not be required to provide any documents relating to the Skills Competency Requirement, including but not limited to affidavits attesting to compliance with the Skills Competency Requirement and law school and supervisor certifications (see 22 NYCRR §520.18).
3. In accordance with the April 21, 2020 directive of the Court of Appeals, participants in the Pro Bono Scholars program who graduate law school in Spring 2020 are not required to submit proof of successful completion of the Pro Bono Scholars Program (see 22 NYCRR §520.17[f]); however, proof of law school graduation is still required (see 22 NYCRR §520.5).
4. The application for admission to the bar must be in affidavit form, executed either in person before a notary public or other person authorized to administer oaths or executed pursuant to Executive Order 202.7, as it exists or as it may be extended (see generally Guidance for Notaries Under Executive Order 202.7 at [https://www.dos.ny.gov/licensing/notary/DOS\\_COVID19\\_RemoteNotaryGuidance.pdf](https://www.dos.ny.gov/licensing/notary/DOS_COVID19_RemoteNotaryGuidance.pdf)).
5. Any other document otherwise stated to be required in affidavit form may be submitted in the form of an affirmation made under penalty of perjury.

6. The requirement that only original documents may be submitted has been revised to permit submission of applications and supporting documents in digital (pdf) format, provided that the applicant represents that the digitized document is a complete and accurate representation of the original and that the Committees on Character and Fitness, and the Appellate Division, reserve the right to request the production of the original.



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Hon. Rolando T. Acosta  
Presiding Justice  
Appellate Division, First Department



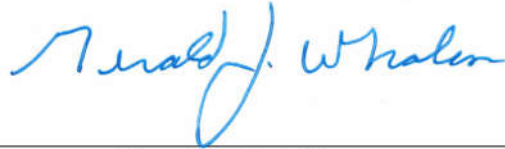
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Hon. Elizabeth A. Garry  
Presiding Justice  
Appellate Division, Third Department



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Hon. Alan D. Scheinkman  
Presiding Justice  
Appellate Division, Second Department



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Hon. Gerald J. Whalen  
Presiding Justice  
Appellate Division, Fourth Department

ADDITIONAL STATEMENT FROM THE PRESIDING JUSTICES OF THE FIRST AND SECOND DEPARTMENTS  
BAR ADMISSION PRACTICES  
APRIL 27, 2020

In addition to the changes made today by all Departments, the following additional changes have been instituted in the Appellate Division, First and Second Departments:

1. The requirement that affidavits (or affirmations) of legal employment must be dated no earlier than 60 days prior to the filing of the bar admission application has been eliminated.
2. The requirement that proof of moral character be dated no earlier than 60 days prior to the filing of the bar admission application may be waived by the Committees on Character and Fitness such that documents bearing earlier dates may be accepted in the discretion of the Committees.



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Hon. Rolando T. Acosta  
Presiding Justice  
Appellate Division, First Department



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Hon. Alan D. Scheinkman  
Presiding Justice  
Appellate Division, Second Department